



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

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Honorable Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Comments on Early Actions
Review Process

Dear Chairman Isenberg and Council Members:

On behalf of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to provide comments to the Delta Stewardship Council's Early Actions Review Committee regarding its consideration of proposed Early Actions for the Interim Delta Plan. Because many of the proposed Early Actions fall under the mandated mission and principles of the Delta Conservancy (Pub. Resources Code, § 32322), we request that the Early Actions Review Committee consider the legislative purpose and priorities of the Delta Conservancy as you make decisions on which proposed actions to include in the Plan.

Currently, the Delta Conservancy does not have adequate resources or staff to conduct a full analysis of all proposed Early Actions to determine whether they fall under our statutory requirements. The Conservancy has, however, conducted a preliminary review of the proposed early actions and would offer a couple of suggestions for the committee's consideration.

First, before making any recommendations, the Early Actions Review Committee should consider the full range of alternatives related to the Yolo Bypass region including the Westside Yolo Bypass Management Option. Potential Early Actions such as this one address the Delta Conservancy's mandated mission to "...support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents . . .", to "[p]rotect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration", and to "[p]rotect and preserve Delta agriculture and working landscapes." (Pub. Resources Code, § 32322, subd. (b)(1), (2).)

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Secondly, the Conservancy appreciates the urgency and need for Early Actions to address multiple hazards in the Delta and efforts to support the Delta Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force. The Early Action proposal titled "Delta Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force Emergency Preparedness Recommendations" provides an excellent example of a coordinated effort that should be considered for the Interim Delta Plan. This early action addresses the Delta Conservancy's mission to "[i]ncrease the resilience of the Delta to the effects of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes . . .", and to "[p]rotect, conserve and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical and, living resources." (Pub. Resources Code, § 32322, subd. (b)(5), (9).)

Both examples provided above reflect the desire of the Delta Conservancy to support comprehensive efforts that address state and local government needs.

This brief list is by no means inclusive or representative of the Delta Conservancy's position on all proposals submitted for your consideration, but emphasizes our limited ability to provide an in-depth review and analysis of all early action proposals and our desire to fulfill our legislative mandate and statutory authority.

Again, we appreciate this opportunity to provide comments on the Early Actions process and encourage the Early Actions Review Committee and the Delta Stewardship Council to continue to work closely with local governments and stakeholders on these very important issues.

Sincerely,



MARY NEJEDLY PIEPHO

Chair, Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

cc: P. Joseph Grindstaff, Interim Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board Members
Cindy Messer, Interim Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Matt Campbell, Counsel, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Don Nottoli, Chair, Delta Protection Commission